

**State of California**  
**CALIFORNIA REGIONAL WATER QUALITY CONTROL BOARD**  
**LOS ANGELES REGION**

**ORDER NO. 98-071**

**ISSUANCE OF A TIME SCHEDULE**  
**DIRECTING**  
**THE CITY OF LOS ANGELES**  
**TO COMPLY WITH THE REQUIREMENTS PRESCRIBED IN**  
**ORDER NO. 98-047**  
**(Los Angeles-Glendale Water Reclamation Plant)**  
**(NPDES PERMIT NO. CA0053953)**

The California Regional Water Quality Control Board, Los Angeles Region (hereafter Regional Board), finds:

1. The City of Los Angeles (hereafter City or Discharger) discharges waste from the Los Angeles-Glendale Water Reclamation Plant (hereafter Los Angeles-Glendale Plant or Plant) under Waste Discharge Requirements (WDRs) contained in Order No. 98-047 adopted by this Regional Board on June 15, 1998. Order No. 98-047 also serves as the National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permit (NPDES No. CA0053953).
2. The Los Angeles-Glendale Plant is jointly owned by the City of Los Angeles and the City of Glendale. The Plant is located at 4600 Colorado Boulevard, Los Angeles, California, and treats wastewater generated from the Cities of Glendale, Burbank, Los Angeles, La Canada-Flintridge, and from Los Angeles Zoo. The Los Angeles-Glendale Plant is a tertiary wastewater treatment plant, that treats municipal wastewater from domestic, commercial, and industrial sources. The treatment design capacity of the Plant is 20 million gallons per day (mgd). In 1997, the average annual flow was 13.9 mgd.
3. The Los Angeles-Glendale Plant discharges the treated wastewater to the Los Angeles River, a water of the United States, at a point about 1,400 feet downstream of Colorado Boulevard (latitude 34° 08' 25" longitude 118° 17' 24"), in the Los Angeles River narrows, above the river estuary.
4. The Regional Board's Order No. 98-047 contains waste discharge requirements for the City regulating the discharge of wastes from the Los Angeles-Glendale Plant. These requirements provide, in part, the following effluent limitations:

<u>Constituent</u>	<u>Units</u>	<u>Monthly Average</u>	<u>Daily Maximum</u>
Total residual chlorine	mg/L	--	0.1

July 29, 1998  
Revised: September 14, 1998

Monthly

Daily

<u>Constituent</u>	<u>Units</u>	<u>Average</u>	<u>Maximum</u>
Cyanide	µg/L	5.2	22
Detergents (as MBAS)	mg/L	--	0.5
Nitrite-N	mg/L	--	1
Copper <sup>[1]</sup>	µg/L	11	17
Bis(2-ethylhexyl)phthalate	µg/L	--	4
Methylene chloride	µg/L	--	5

Footnote:

- [1] Concentrations expressed as total recoverable metals, and corresponded to a total hardness of 100 mg/L and water effect ratio of 1.0. For other conditions, the limits can be calculated by following 40 CFR §131.36(b)(2) and/or a water effect ratio study according to USEPA guidance documents and/or state protocols, if applicable.

5. The Los Angeles-Glendale Plant can not achieve immediate compliance with the above total residual chlorine, cyanide, MBAS, nitrite, copper, bis(2-ethylhexyl)phthalate, and methylene chloride limits. Therefore, interim limits which are based on Los Angeles-Glendale Plant performance are provided in this Order.
6. The City has proposed a plan with a logical sequence of actions to achieve full compliance with effluent waste discharge requirements. The first phase of the Plan would be to investigate the sources in the collection system of the high levels of contaminants. If the sources can be identified, source reduction measures will be instituted. If the sources can not be identified, a decision will then be made to identify if it is appropriate to conduct a study for Site Specific Objectives, a Use Attainability Assessment, or to construct treatment facilities.
7. The California Water Code Section 13300 states:  
  
"Whenever a regional board finds that a discharge of waste is taking place or threatening to take place that violates or will violate requirements prescribed by the regional board, or the state board, or that the waste collection, treatment, or disposal facilities of a discharger are approaching capacity, the board may require the discharger to submit for approval of the board, with such modifications as it may deem necessary, a detailed time schedule of specific actions the discharger shall take in order to correct or prevent a violation of requirements."
8. This enforcement action is being taken for the protection of the environment and as such is exempt from the provisions of the California Environmental Quality Act (Public Resources Code, Section 21100, et.seq.) in accordance with Section 15321, Chapter 3, Title 14, Code of California Regulations.

The Board notified the discharger and interested agencies and persons of its intent to adopt a time schedule concerning violations or threatened violations of waste discharge requirements.

The Board, in a public hearing, heard and considered all testimony pertinent to this matter. All Orders referred to above and records of hearings and testimony therein are included herein by reference.

**IT IS HEREBY ORDERED** that, pursuant to the California Water Code Section 13300, the City of Los Angeles, as operator of the Los Angeles-Glendale Plant, shall:

1. Comply immediately with the following interim effluent limits<sup>[1]</sup>:

<u>Constituent</u>	<u>Units</u>	<u>Monthly Average</u>	<u>Daily Maximum</u>
Total residual chlorine	mg/L	--	0.3 <sup>[2]</sup>
Cyanide	µg/L	40 <sup>[3]</sup>	40
Detergents (as MBAS)	mg/L	---	0.6
Nitrite-N	mg/L	---	2 <sup>[4]</sup>
Copper	µg/L	22 <sup>[3]</sup>	22
Bis(2-ethylhexyl)phthalate	µg/L	---	19
Methylene chloride	µg/L	---	25.5

Footnotes:

- [1] Interim effluent limits were derived statistically using effluent performance data from January 1993 through December 1997. Effluent values ( $x_i$ ) are assumed to be lognormally distributed. The use of logarithmic transformation equation,  $Y_i = \ln(x_i)$ , results in effluent values ( $Y_i$ ) that are normally distributed. Interim effluent limits are determined using the mean ( $u_n$ ) and the standard deviation ( $\sigma_n$ ) of the distribution of the average using the equation:

$$x_{95th} = \exp [u_n + (Z_{0.95}) \sigma_n]$$

where

$x_{95th}$  = Discharge effluent quality performance goal at the 95th percentile of the normal distribution.

$u_n$  = Mean distribution of the average (transformed).

$Z_{0.95}$  = Z-value from the Table of Areas under the Standard Normal Curve: equal to 1.645 at 95 percent.

$\sigma_n$  = Standard deviation of the average transformed.

Exp is an exponential to the base "e" value = 2.7183

- [2] When the residual chlorine is more than 0.1 mg/L, a gate that prevents the effluent from flowing into the Los Angeles River will be closed. However, the gate is at the beginning of a serpentine channel, and the remaining effluent (with the residual chlorine of more than 0.1 mg/L) inside the channel would continue flowing through the channel and into the river. Therefore, during a high residual chlorine emergency, the level of total residual chlorine shall not exceed 0.3 mg/L and shall not last more than 15 minutes during any 24-hour period.

- [3] For cyanide and copper, the interim effluent limit for monthly average is the same as the interim effluent limit for daily maximum due to the lack of appropriate effluent performance data to derive the interim limit for monthly average.
  - [4] The nitrite-N interim effluent limit will provide the City with treatment flexibility while conducting pilot studies and implementation of projects to reduce nitrogen in their effluent.
2. The interim limit for nitrite-N shall be in effect until June 30, 2002. No latter than that date, the City shall achieve full compliance with the effluent limitation of nitrite-N.
  3. The interim limit for total residual chlorine shall be in effect until October 1, 2005. The City will evaluate the options to control the total residual chlorine in the effluent of the treatment plant. After that date, the City shall achieve full compliance with the effluent limitation of total residual chlorine.
  4. For other compounds (cyanide, MBAS, copper, bis(2-ethylhexyl)phthalate, and methylene chloride), the City shall complete the source identification study by October 1, 2000 and achieve full compliance with the following conditions:
    - a) comply with the effluent limits listed in Order No. 98-047 through the source reduction prior to October 1, 2002; or
    - b) comply prior to October 1, 2002, with the revised limits, if any, that are based on such approved Site Specific Objectives or revised beneficial uses from Use Attainability Analyses, as approved by the Regional Board; or
    - c) comply with the effluent limits listed in Order No. 98-047 by treatment prior to October 3, 2006
  5. The Discharger shall submit quarterly progress reports to describe the progress of studies and/or actions undertaken to reduce these compounds in the effluent, and to achieve compliance with the limits in Order No. 98-047 by the above mentioned deadline. Progress reports shall be submitted by the first day of the second month following the quarterly period with the first progress report due by February 1, 1999.
  6. If the City fails to comply with any provisions of this Order, the Executive Officer may issue an Administrative Civil Liability Complaint pursuant to California Water Code Section 13323. The Regional Board may also refer the case to the Attorney General for injunction and civil monetary remedies, pursuant to California Water Code Sections 13331 and 13385.
  7. The action taken by this Board pertaining to the time schedule does not preclude the possibility of actions to enforce the permit by third parties pursuant to Section 505 of the Federal Clean Water Act.
  8. The Board may reopen this matter by the request of the Discharger.

City of Los Angeles  
Los Angeles-Glendale Water Reclamation Plant  
Time Schedule Order No. 98-071

CA0053953

I, Dennis Dickerson, Executive Officer, do hereby certify that the foregoing is a full, true and correct copy of an order adopted by the California Regional Water Quality Control Board, Los Angeles Region, on September 14, 1998.

DENNIS DICKERSON  
Executive Officer

/AC